

RESOLUTION NO. 17-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF ST. LEO, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING THE TOWN'S SUPPORT AND INTENTION TO CREATE WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES, THE "RENEWPACE PROGRAM" A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM PROVIDING INTERESTED PROPERTY OWNERS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO FINANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND WIND MITIGATION IMPROVEMENTS ON THEIR PROPERTY BY REPAYMENT THROUGH NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS ON THEIR PROPERTY TAX BILL; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF TOWN OF ST. LEO TO EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA GREEN FINANCE AUTHORITY FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE RENEWPACE PROGRAM IN THE TOWN OF ST. LEO; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, home and business energy consumption accounts for a large portion of the overall usage of energy in a community; and

WHEREAS, there is a vast quantity of existing structures with many years of remaining life before replacement, and these structures are not as energy efficient as today's standards, nor do many existing buildings have renewable energy systems installed to provide some or all of their electric energy needs and many buildings are in need of improvements to protect them against damage from storm events; and

WHEREAS, installing energy efficiency, renewable energy and wind resistance improvements on existing structures can provide significant progress towards increased energy conservation and protection of properties in the Town of St. Leo and statewide; and

WHEREAS, the upfront costs of these improvements are a hurdle to installing them and existing financing options may be insufficient for property owners to access cost-effective financing for energy-saving or wind-resistance property improvements due to requirements associated with traditional debt or equity financing options; and

WHEREAS, the expected life of energy efficiency, renewable energy or wind resistance projects may require a longer term payback period than offered by traditional financing, which may necessitate alternative options to fund installation of the improvements; and

WHEREAS, local governments within Florida and nationally have either formed, or are contemplating the formation of, programs to provide alternative financing options allowing a property owner to voluntarily finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements through payment of non-ad valorem assessments; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has declared it the public policy of the State to develop energy management programs aimed at promoting energy conservation and protecting properties from wind damage; and

WHEREAS, the financing provided to these participating property owners will be repaid though non-ad valorem assessments and only those property owners who request to participate will be levied the assessments; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of these energy financing programs include improved air quality, lowered fossil fuels use, creating energy independence and security, promoting the creation of jobs and economic development by stimulating "green industries" and saving citizens money by reducing energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, Section 163.08, F.S. authorizes local governments in Florida to either form individually, or in partnership with other local governments, programs to allow property owners to voluntarily finance energy efficiency, renewable energy or wind resistance improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lantana has formed the RenewPACE program which is an energy financing program created pursuant to Section 163.08, F.S.; and

WHEREAS, other local governments in the State are able to partner in the RenewPACE program by executing an Interlocal Agreement creating the Florida Green Finance Authority to administer the program, thus eliminating the costs and reducing the efforts to form an energy financing program by individual local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Green Finance Authority is already creating the financing, levy and collection process to implement the RenewPACE program through the local government partners; and

WHEREAS, the RenewPACE program will provide significant benefits including property owner cost savings, enhancing property values, economic development and job opportunities and the Town of St. Leo believes that it is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of its citizens to participate in the program and authorize the Mayor and Town Attorney to finalize the Interlocal Agreement creating the Florida Green Finance Authority and begin the steps to create the RenewPACE program in the Town of St. Leo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF ST. LEO, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The above declarations are true and accurate, and are incorporated herein.

Section 2. The Town of St. Leo, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, hereby authorizes participation in the Florida Green Finance Authority to implement the RenewPACE program.

Section 3. The Town Commission hereby directs the Mayor and Town Attorney to finalize the Interlocal Agreement with the Florida Green Finance Authority, and further authorizes the Mayor of the Town of St. Leo to execute the Interlocal Agreement on behalf of the Town.

Section 4. The Town of St. Leo hereby directs that the Mayor and Town Attorney to begin creating the levy and collection process for the voluntary non-ad valorem assessments with the Florida Green Finance Authority and Pasco County Property Appraiser and Tax Collector.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and remain in effect for three years subsequent to execution by both parties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED in regular session on the 10 day of October, 2016.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF ST. LEO

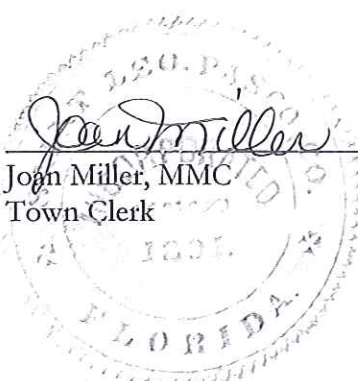


Richard H. Christmas, Mayor

Approved as to form by:



Patricia A. Petruff, Esq.  
Town Attorney



Joan Miller, MMC  
Town Clerk